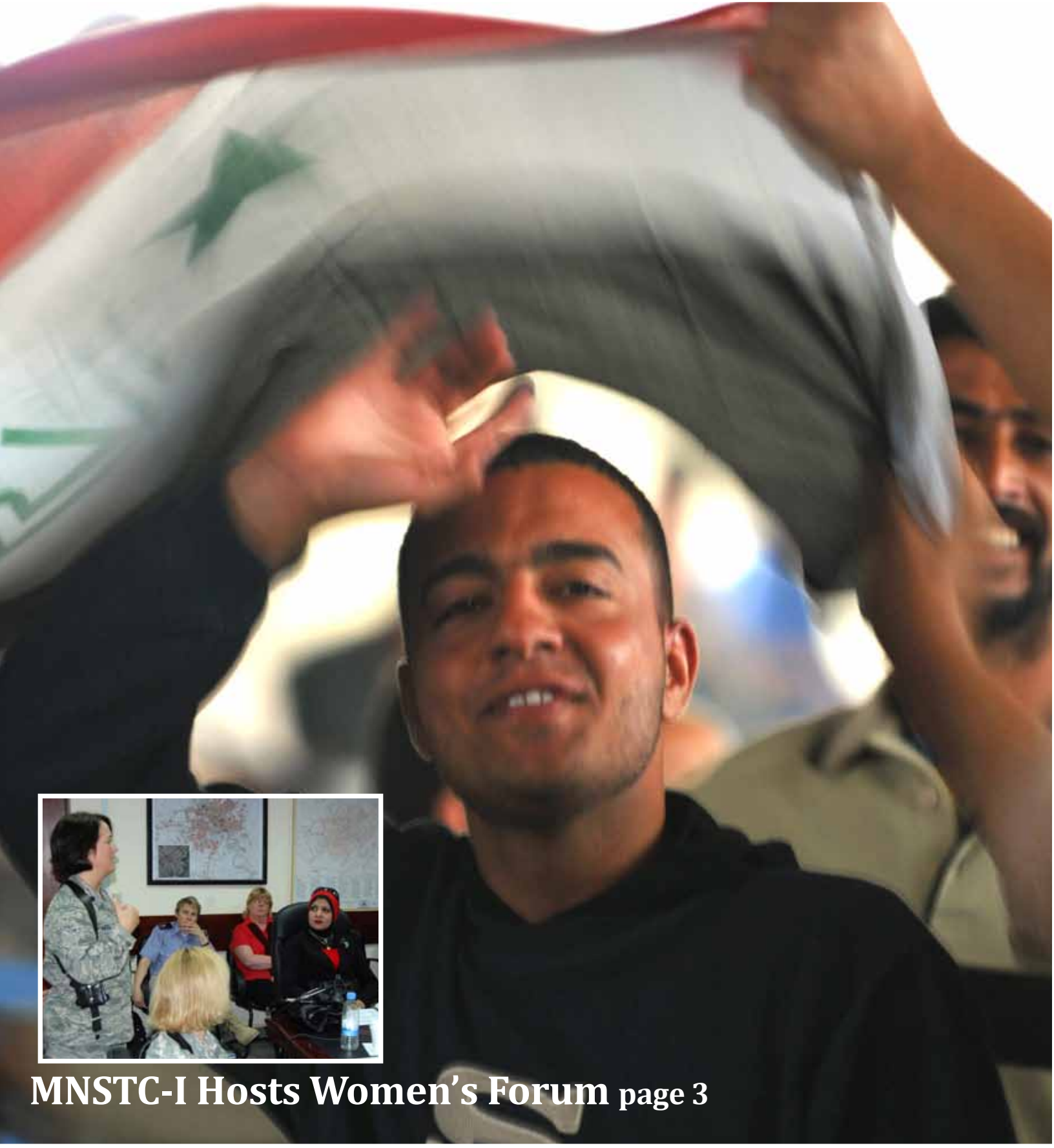


The Advisor



Multi-National Security Transition Command - Iraq

April 2009



MNSTC-I Hosts Women's Forum page 3

The Advisor

>> Volume 6 >> Issue 4

*A monthly publication of the Multi-National
Security Transition Command – Iraq*

Commanding General

Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, USA

Sergeant Major

Sgt. Maj. Daniel Terwilliger, USMC

Public Affairs Officer

Col. Steven Wujciak, USA

Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Col. Gary Kolb, USA

MoD Public Affairs Advisor

Lt. Col. Bill Gazis, USA

DoIA Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Kimberly Layne, USAF

MoD Media Relations Officer

Capt. Tommy Avilucea, USAF

Mr. Van Williams

Public Affairs NCOIC

Sgt. 1st Class Michael Colucci, USA

Editor

MC1 Jim Bane, USN

Graphic Design

MC1 Jason Winn, USN

Photojournalist

Sr. Airman Stefanie Torres, USAF

Public Affairs Operations NCO

Staff Sgt. Ashley Shoemaker, USA

The Advisor is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Defense Department and multinational partners.

Contents of this paper are not necessarily the official views of the U.S. government or multinational partners of the U.S. Department of Defense. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the Multi-National Security Transition Command — Iraq Public Affairs Office.

Direct questions and comments to:

pao@iraq.centcom.mil

MNSTC-I PAO

APO AE 09348

DSN: 318-852-1332

www.mnstci.iraq.centcom.mil

>> ON THE COVER

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell
Iraqi students dance under an Iraqi flag before a graduation from a heavy equipment operator's course funded by the Coalition force.



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

An Iraqi student receives a handshake and his graduation certificate from a local dignitary March 5 at the Adl Sports Center in Kadamiyah, Iraq. The students graduated from a heavy equipment operator's course funded by Coalition forces.

Features

- | | | |
|---|----|---|
| Tank Program Managers visit Besmaya | 4 | Iraqi Army and Coalition partners traveled to Besmaya Range Complex Feb. 23 for an update on the new M1A1 Abrams training program |
| First Iraqi-taught Waterborne Ops Course | 6 | Proudly standing in front of their recently-delivered River Patrol Boats, 19 Iraqi Policemen proudly accepted their certificates |
| New environmentally-engineered landfill in Kirkuk | 9 | The city is serious about solving its garbage problem and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is part of a joint, multi-national effort to provide solutions |
| Baghdad Police College opens first Foreign Language Center | 10 | The Baghdad Police College, opened its newly-constructed language center within the High Institute |
| Security progress allows for Shulla transfer to ISF | 12 | Iraqi Security Forces took another necessary step toward total Iraqi control in securing northwest Baghdad. |
| Iraqi Mi-17 Multi-role Helicopter performs night training mission | 17 | Iraqi Mi-17 multi-role helicopter performed a night vision navigation passenger movement mission. |

First Women's Forum held at MNSTC-I

By U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class
Patricia Ruth MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD - International Day 2009 was marked with the first Women's Forum, held in the CPATT Conference Room, MNSTC-I, Phoenix Base on March 8th. This forum was designed to bring Iraqi women together with women from the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq (MNSTC-I) to discuss some issues they have and to build relationships within the different cultures.

Samantha Emmett, of MNSTC-I Directorate of Defense Affairs (MNSTC-I DDA) coordinator of the Forum, stated that it was the vision of Major General Jasim, Director of Military Training M7, to bring the two groups together to discuss cultures, roles and responsibilities. He also felt it was a good idea to get feedback from these women regarding what they might want to discuss in future forums. Emmett stated that they wanted to create the atmosphere for an open dialogue, so the women could feel they had a voice and were not just being talked to. The aim was for the Iraqi women to find out more about western culture and values from a female perspective and have a better understanding of the different roles women fulfill in the military, MOD organizations, police, judicial and educational systems, said Emmett.

Topics during the forum included the role of women in the police, life as a middle school principal, females in the judiciary system and women in western society and business. Dr. Noor, Medical Inspector and Assistant to Ministry of Defense (MoD) IG, spoke on the progression of women in society. "When women progress, then society

progresses—when women are held back, then society is held back," declared Noor. She mentioned key women who have engraved their memory in history—they included the virgin Mary, Our lady Fatimah Al Zahra, the daughter of the last prophet Mohammed, Nazik Al Mala'akh, Iraqi author and poet and Naziha AL-Dolaimi, who was active in women's rights.

United States Marine Corps Maj Kimberley Donahue shared with the Iraqi women her experiences as a female in the military. She stated that only 6% of the Marines force is female, but she persevered to get what she wanted. "Even in a restricted service, you can still excel and be a leader," said Donahue.

Lt. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, Commanding General of MNSTC-I, arrived to show his support of the forum. He remarked on the strides that women are making both in the military and in other fields of work. He stated that women are breaking down barriers



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman StefanieTorres

Lt. Gen. Frank G. Helmick, Commanding General of MNSTC-I and Najwa Mustafa attended the recent Womens's Forum held at Phoenix Base.

towards equality. "You have to be patient—look where we were just 5 years ago." With such things as infrastructure, oil, water and educated people, Iraq has everything to be not just a leader, but the leader in the Region, stated Helmick.

The Iraqi women were asked to fill out a comment

card to get a sense of what they felt about the forum. Lamyaa' Jaleel, of the Directorate of Training-M7, was very happy with the forum. "It was excellent, we hope it happens more often... had we started earlier, we would have benefited earlier."



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman StefanieTorres

A group of women, along with Lt. Gen. Frank G. Helmick gather at the conclusion of the first Women's Forum held at Phoenix Base. The conference aim was for the Iraqi women to find out more about western culture and values from a female perspective.

Iraqi M1A1 Tank Program Managers visit Besmaya Range Complex

By U.S. Air Force Capt. Tommy Avilucea
MNSTC-I PAO

BESMAYA, Iraq – Iraqi Army and Coalition partners traveled to Besmaya Range Complex Feb. 23 for an update on the new M1A1 Abrams training program underway here. U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Salazar, commander, Joint Headquarters Army Advisory Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, accompanied Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. Hazim, Col. Razzaq, and Col. Abdul Ameer, program managers for the M1A1 Abrams tank fielding for the Iraqi Army.

The visit consisted of a tour of an M1A1 Abrams tank, a question-and-answer session with the top Iraqi student, Lt. Husham Jamel Ali, and finally an exhilarating ride in the M1A1 designed to demonstrate the speed and maneuverability of the weapons platform.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Timothy Renshaw, Coalition Senior Advisor - Besmaya Combat Training Center, briefed training scenarios and the objectives of the intense tank training to the program managers. Detailing the steps involved in completing the course, he said, "They first learn how to operate the main gun, and then advance to acquiring multiple targets."

Husham, currently a student in the train-the-trainer course, was asked about his impression of the training to-date. He replied, "The combination of hands-on training and classroom training is very effective. The training is difficult, but we are dedicated to completing each training scenario. We do not leave the training area until the mission is complete, no matter if it is past normal duty hours."

The Iraqi M1A1 Abrams students have the opportunity to train with simulators to familiarize themselves with the operations of the weapons system. Husham said, "We cannot tell the difference between training in the simulators (on the weapons systems) compared to the real thing. Using the simulators is an effective way to learn the weapons system and gain confidence before live-fire training."

Mr. Mark Bangsboll, JHAATT M1A1 Project Officer/Advisor, stated, "Currently, the first four American tanks



Photo by U.S. Air Force Capt. Tommy Avilucea

Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, commander, Joint Headquarters Army Advisory Training Team, and Brig. Gen. Hazim, Iraqi M1A1 Program Manager, receive a briefing on capabilities of the Abrams tank during a management review at Besmaya Range Complex Feb. 23..



Photo by U.S. Air Force Capt. Tommy Avilucea

Brig. Gen. Hazim, Iraqi Army M1A1 Program Manager, rides in the tank commander's hatch of the Abrams Tank at Besmaya Range Complex

are at Besmaya Range Complex, with another 18 to be delivered within the next month. The 22 tanks will be used to train 11 Iraqi tank crews in each of thirteen future 45-day rotations. Iraq has purchased 140 M1A1 Abrams tanks, scheduled for delivery in August 2010."

Salazar added, "We currently have 30 Iraqis in the M1A1 Train-the-Trainer course for the first phase of the process. The second phase will involve these new instructors training the new crews. They are committed to providing the best possible training to the Iraqi Army before they receive the first new tanks."

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Sorenson addresses AFCEA meeting

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jim Bane
MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD – U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Sorenson, Chief Information Officer for the Secretary of the Army, spoke at the monthly Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association meeting on Feb. 26. The meeting, held at Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq headquarters, was attended by Iraqi Maj. Gen. Sa'ad Kadhum, Director General of Communications for the Ministry of Information; Brig. Gen. Aliwe Jassam, Director - Radio Repair Division; Brig. Gen. Mahmood Al-Anni from the Ministry of Information; Brig. Gen. Ahmed Hoan, Advanced First Responder Network Program Manager for the Ministry of Information; and Dr. Ali Taresh, Chief Information Officer for the Ministry of Defense.

The event was joined via video teleconference by other AFCEA members and guests from Victory Base, including communications officers from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and DoD

civilians.

Lt. Gen. Sorenson began by saying to the group, "When it comes to information, it is not what you know, it is what you share." He added, "The U.S. Army is transforming what its IT network will look like by developing a better expeditionary capability and by having the ability to establish collaboration as a way of doing business. The Army will be transitioning a lot of independent networks into a single network enterprise. In order to be effective, we in the United States have to be able to communicate with all our expeditionary forces. The current network we have is not a single enterprise and we have to do a lot to make it function to the expeditionary level."

Sorenson summarized by saying, "We want to get to a universal data storage point, with one phone number, e-mail, and one set of collaborative tools that will not change, even when one physically moves, and will be effective anywhere in the world."

Dr. Taresh asked if the Coalition faced any obstacles that the Ministry of Defense could learn from to achieve the same level of network capability. Sorenson replied,

"Getting people to come to agreement on the governance and protocol and the network structure was a challenge. We now have a process where we have one single group that looks at the network structure."

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Deveon Sudduth from MNSTC-I, J-6, said, "The information Lt. Gen. Sorenson shared was very enlightening. It was very good to see what the Army's way forward is. I can't wait to see this process and structure work."

U.S. Air Force Col. Jeffrey Kromer, MNSTC-I J6, said, "The Baghdad chapter of AFCEA has been active since Nov. 2008. There are over 140 AFCEA chapters worldwide with 19,000 members, 13,000 corporate associates, and 16,000 corporate members. The organization serves as a bridge between government and industry communications professionals."

MNSTC-I's and AFCEA's efforts in training and mentoring their Government of Iraqi partners represents a vital step towards ensuring Iraq's self-sufficiency for the future.



Photo by U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Jim Bane

U.S Army Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Sorensen addresses a meeting of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association on the Army's way forward for Information Technology and it's application for forward-deployed troops

First Iraqi-taught Waterborne Ops Course graduates 19

By U.S. Army Pfc. Bethany Little
Multi National Corps-Iraq

BAGHDAD – Proudly standing in front of their recently-delivered River Patrol Boats, 19 Iraqi Policemen proudly accepted their certificates Feb. 26, marking them as the first class to graduate from the Baghdad River Patrol Station and Training Center under the tutelage of all-Iraqi instructors. This modest, but significant, accomplishment represents the handover of responsibility for training all future River Patrol classes to the Iraqis, with International Police Advisors serving as mentors.

“This first class is a step forward in this training academy and supports Interior Minister Bolani’s long-term vision in building a self-sustaining security force for Iraq,” said Lt. Gen. Frank Helmick, Commanding General, Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq. “These police forces are critical to the security of Iraq because they have to operate in a non-sectarian manner with no political motives and uphold the standards associated with the Rule of Law.”

Graduates of the six-week Waterborne Operations Course learned not only basic police procedures, but also emergency response skills. The jointly-developed Iraqi/Coalition curriculum will help train waterway police from other Iraqi provinces as the Baghdad River Patrol Training Center transforms from a station and endeavors to become a national-level training center.

Iraqi Maj. Gen. Ali al-Yassiri, commander, Baghdad Patrol Police, said, “In the future, I want to have a training academy so I can have people from all over Iraq to train, not just



Photo by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Gary Kollb

Iraqi Maj. Gen. Ali al-Yassiri, commander, Baghdad Patrol Police, addresses the graduates of the first Iraqi-taught Waterborne Operations Course during a ceremony at the Baghdad River Patrol Station and Training Center

those from here in Baghdad. I want to thank the Coalition forces for giving us a jump start on this program. This is actually providing us with the opportunities for complete control of not only our streets, but the rivers as well.”

Other dignitaries attending the graduation included U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Jerry Cannon, Director General, Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, and Iraqi Col. Fadhel, commander, Baghdad River Patrol Station and Training Center.



Photo by U.S. Army Lt. Col. Gary Kolb

An Iraqi River Patrol boat conducts operations on the Tigris River in Baghdad.

Iraqis assume responsibility for FOB Iskan

Multi-National Division-Center - PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ISKAN, Iraq – Soldiers, Iraqi Police and power plant workers gathered to transfer authority of Forward Operating Base Iskan from Coalition forces to the Ministry of Electricity during a ceremony here Feb. 22.

The ceremony officially turned over the responsibilities of the FOB to the Ministry of Electricity and signified the Iraqi governments capability to secure the Musayyib Thermal Power Plant.

Al Abd Al-Ameer Al-Yasseri, the General Director of Operations at the Ministerial Presidency and Lt. Col. Steven Miska, commander, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, both spoke about what it meant to transfer the responsibility for FOB Iskan over to Iraqi officials.

“This transfer of authority reinforces the Iraqi government’s independence and demonstrates the capabilities of the Iraqis,” said Miska.

Lt. Col Mary Morehouse, Deputy Director of Personnel, Logistics and Resource Management for Multi-National Forces- Iraq, and Al-Yasseri, signed the official paperwork transferring the authority of FOB Iskan over to the Ministry of Electricity.

“The Iraqis have come to a point where they can stabilize security on and around the FOB ” said Capt. Bradley Kinser, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander, 1st Bn., 2nd Inf. Reg.

The Musayyib Thermal Power Plant is located on FOB Iskan. The power plant provides power to the majority of Babil Province and 25 percent of the electricity to Baghdad.

Security for the plant will be one of the major responsibilities for the Ministry of Electricity. The last attack by anti-Iraqi forces on the FOB happened around late October 2008, when a mortar attack occurred and left many Iraqis without electricity.

The power plant had stopped generating electricity in 2003 due to anti-Iraqi forces’ activities.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Bethany L. Little

Lt. Col Steven Miska, commander, 1st Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, delivers a speech during a transfer of authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Iskan, Feb. 22. During Miska’s speech, he spoke about how now is the perfect time to give the Ministry of Electricity full control over FOB Iskan..

Coalition forces maintained the security on the FOB, while the Iraqis fixed and continued to work in the

power plant. Approximately 1,600 employees work at the power plant.



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Bethany L. Little

Ali Abd Al-Ameer Al-Yasseri, General Director of Operations, Ministerial Presidency, signs the official transfer-of-authority paperwork during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Iskan, Feb. 22. The transfer of authority releases Coalition Forces from responsibilities of the FOB and puts the Ministry of Electricity in full control.

Resources Management and Budgeting conference ends with awards ceremony.

By U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class
Jim Bane
MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD - Over 40 participants in the DRMI Resources Management & Budgeting Conference were presented graduation certifications here on Wednesday Feb. 25 at the NTM-I complex by U.S. Army Brigadier General Charles D. Luckey, MNSTC-I deputy commanding general for Security Assistance.

Participants came from the Iraqi Ministry of Interior (MoI) , Ministry of Finance(MoF), Ministry of Defense (MoD) , Ministry of Justice(MoJ) and the Counter Terrorism Bureau.

The conference was a nine day event held as a follow up to a conference held here in August of 2008 that focused on general resource management for the ministries.

At the request of Multi-National Security

Transition Coordination-Iraq (MNSTCI), the February conference concentrated on life cycle costing, effectiveness analysis, and project management. The conference also facilitated inter-ministerial discussions on the budget preparation and execution process as well as the Government of Iraq's ability to efficiently and effectively manage public resources and on developing international best practices in resource management for government ministries and agencies.

The conference was coordinated by U.S. Air Force Maj. Susy Bogdan, MNSTC-I SAO. Bogdan said, "This training was extremely successful because the four participating ministries sent their most qualified representatives, all working in the fields applicable for the material presented. It was the combination of excellent instruction and enthusiastic students that truly made this

a beneficial training event for Iraq."

Stephen Hurst, senior lecturer with Defense Resources Management Institute says that "we bring all these ministries together in one room where they sit and talk to each other. There is a huge interaction that may be as important as what we are presenting."

DRMI instructor Louis Morales says, "We came here and asked the ministries what their shortcomings were with regard to education and training. Their reply to us was better project management, better budget preparation and execution and a better understanding of costs."

Hurst related a real world example by saying "when you purchase the Blackberry device for \$199 you have also committed yourself to another \$80 a month for the service for each one of the devices."

Hurst added that "our

technique is to lecture then break into small groups that go over cases that relate to challenges of their ministries."

Sabah Al-Ibrahem, Budget Director for the Ministry of Finance said "the workshop was very significant and important for us to help develop skills in our work. This is especially true in a time when we move towards democracy. Now we will the skills for our economy through budgeting. Finance will work for the military which will help in the defense of our country. Because of the skills learned by the attendees of this workshop we are all specialists in budget and finance. We are grateful for the continued support for the government of Iraq. "

Counter Terrorism Bureau Deputy Director Abdul Abbas Mohamed said that " I have now additional information to put together a budget that will pass through stages before approval. When we execute the budget we will put in our minds all the information from the instructors and from the other attendees of this conference."



The recently held Resource Management and Budgeting workshop ended with over 40 attendees receiving graduation certifications, presented to them by U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Charles D. Luckey.

Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman StefanieTorres

New environmentally-engineered landfill in Kirkuk is first of its kind in Iraq

By Mike Scheck
Gulf Region North

Kirkuk, Iraq – Engineers estimate that Kirkuk residents discard 900 tons of trash a day. So like other major cities in the world, Kirkuk is facing the age old problem: what to do with all that trash. The city is serious about solving its garbage problem and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is part of a joint, multi-national effort to provide solutions.

For years Kirkuk residents have been dumping their garbage into unregulated areas or merely unloading it in open fields outside the city. This unrestricted dumping has the potential to cause serious health, environmental and public safety concerns.

To solve the city's garbage problem, the Coalition Forces Brigade Combat Team (BCT) initiated a sustained Solid Waste Management Program for Kirkuk in 2005. To find an environmentally safe solution to the city's garbage collection and disposal dilemma, the BCT partnered with the Kirkuk Municipality, the Kirkuk Provincial Government, the Provincial Reconstruction Team-Kirkuk, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the USACE Gulf Region Division.

The central piece to the initiative is the \$8.8 million sanitary landfill project, which meets both the highest U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and European Union Landfill Directive standards. This site represents the first environmentally engineered and constructed landfill in Iraq. The landfill project, built using the Commander's Emergency Response Program fund (CERP), was completed by the Irbil-based Zana Group in February 2008. The 48-acre site is located 10 miles south of Kirkuk and has an expected lifespan of 10-12 years according to the engineers.

To increase the capacity of landfill sites and to conform to current EPA standards, solid waste must now be processed through a transfer waste station where garbage is compacted. The Kirkuk landfill will soon have two solid waste transfer stations to provide added



Photo by Mike Scheck

A garbage truck offloads trash at Solid Waste Transfer Station #1, located south of Kirkuk, Iraq. The \$2.5 million facility has the capacity to handle 300 tons of waste per day.

capacity and to compact the trash before being transferred to the landfill.

The Gulf Region North district's Kirkuk Area Office is the contract manager for the construction of the solid waste transfer sites. The Dalo Construction Company of Kirkuk completed the first transfer station, located south of the city, in December 2007. The second solid waste site, located just north of the city, is scheduled for completion in June. Each station has the capacity to handle 300 tons of waste per day. At full capacity, eight tractor trailers transfer the 18 40-ton capacity transfer trailers to the landfill site continuously throughout the day.

"The first waste transfer station is being fully utilized and the Iraqis are implementing some of their own ideas at the waste transfer station. For example, they are removing large pieces of metal from the trash for potential recycling," explained Lt. Col. J.B. Chadwick, officer in charge of the Kirkuk Area Office. "The site of the second waste transfer station was selected due to its proximity to the Kirkuk Ring Road project, which will allow quick and easy access to the site

from the City of Kirkuk and from the waste transfer station to the landfill."

The price tag for each solid waste site is \$2.5 million with funding for the projects coming from several agencies including the United Nations Office of Project Services. The Development Group Iraq Trust Fund is paying for the city's garbage trucks. The Republic of Korea donated the collection vehicles and loaders used at the sites.

The solid waste sites and landfill will employ over 700 local workers, adding good paying jobs and a much need boost to the city's local economy.

The major concern by the solid waste project partners was how to sustain such a massive operation after the subject matter experts leave Iraq. To keep Kirkuk's solid waste plan in place for the long-term, the agencies instituted training in all aspects of the operation. U.S. Air Force technicians currently conduct vehicle and maintenance training with employees and the Research Triangle Institute International instructs local managers on landfill operations, maintenance and site management training.

Baghdad Police College opens first Foreign Language Center

by USAF Maj. Kimberly Layne
MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD, Iraq – The Training and Qualification Institute, located on the Baghdad Police College, opened its newly-constructed language center within the High Institute Feb. 28. The High Institute serves as the Center of Excellence for Professionalization of the Iraqi police.

The center consists of two classrooms, each able to accommodate 36 students. While only English is currently taught, other languages, including Kurdish, Turkish, Farsi, German, and French will soon be offered.

Iraqi Police with a demonstrated a proficiency in English will teach the first courses. The BPC plans to hire additional specialized IP instructors to teach the other languages.

Director General of the Training and Qualification Center, Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Jassim, responsible for all MoI training centers in Iraq, believes mastery of the English language is essential to the professionalism of the Iraqi police officers.

“The opening of this new center represents another progressive step for the High Institute. We can be proud of this center; it has some of the latest technological equipment for teaching foreign languages,” said Jassim.

The classrooms were modeled after a language school in London, England which Jassim attended last year. In addition to headsets, the classrooms are also equipped with flat screen and DVD-display capabilities. The BPC plans to add another 30-person classroom in the near future.

The two-month long course will soon

be a requirement for new officers. This first class will consist of 30 students -- 15 from the Ministry of Interior and 15 from the Training Qualification Institute.

Many people were responsible for the development of the new center. Jassim thanked the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq’s Civilian Police Assistance Training Team and the High Institute staff for all their contributions towards making the new center possible.

Jassim added, “English is the international language, and giving our officers this new capability will ensure they are able to operate in a global environment.” MNSTC-I’s efforts in supporting its Government of Iraq ministerial partners represents a vital step towards ensuring Iraq’s self-sufficiency for the future.



Photo by U.S Air Force Maj Kimberly Layne,

Members of the Ministry of Interior receive a demonstration on the headset equipment in the new Foreign Language Learning Center at the BPC’s High Institute Feb. 28.

Umm Qasr residents get new medical facility

By A. Al Bahrani
Gulf Region Division South district

BASRA, Iraq— Basra officials opened a newly completed primary healthcare clinic Feb. 19, the first of its kind in Umm Qasr, located on the southern edge of Iraq.

The new clinic is providing medical care to about 250 patients daily, compared to the old two-room facility that had less than half that volume, said Dr. Abdullah, the clinic administrator. "What we had was very small and we simply didn't have room for all our staff and patients," Dr. Abdullah continued. "But here, everything is great. We have separate rooms for vaccinations, a pharmacy, medical and dental care, a testing laboratory, X- rays and public education." The new clinic is staffed by 20 medical personnel and is open six hours daily Sunday through Thursday for residents of all ages.

Salih Abdulmahdi, Head of Umm Qasr's Council, said, "We are very happy to participate in this ribbon cutting today. People here will no longer have to drive 60 kilometers to get quality medical care for their families. This is a great improvement for our entire community." Pharmacist Lila agreed. She worked at the old facility and is very pleased with the new one. "It's awesome – all state-of-the-art equipment and design. All who have stopped by are impressed with what they see."

James Mills with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Division said he was very proud to oversee the construction, which was done by local Iraqis whose families will directly benefit for years to come. "It's something I can tell my grandchildren about," he noted. "It provides services which were simply not available in this community before."

Throughout Iraq, USACE has completed and turned over 132 Primary Healthcare Centers to the Iraqi Ministry of Health. The PHCs have the capacity to treat 4.6 million outpatients annually.



USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani

A modern testing laboratory is now available at the newly-opened primary healthcare clinic in Umm Qasr.



USACE photo by A. Al Bahrani

Lila provides medication to Umm Qasr residents seeking medical care at the newly-opened primary healthcare clinic there.

Basra regional courthouse ready to serve justice

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Aaron Thacker
Multi-National Division South East PAO

BASRA, Iraq - Hundreds of people turned out to celebrate the dedication of a new six-court regional courthouse of justice in Basra Feb. 26.

The Union of Basra Court of Appeals was welcomed by Basra Governor Mohamad El Wa'eli, Iraqi Judiciary Commission Chairman Medhatt Al Mahmoud, Multi-National Division – South East Commander Maj. Gen. Andy Salmon, members of the Iraqi legal community, Iraqi Security Forces, other Coalition members and local media.

"This courthouse will be a monument of justice," Mahmoud said. "Iraqi justice is very strong. It will not allow outside influences to keep it from serving justice."

The regional courthouse is a \$10 million U.S. funded project expected to be operational in about 10 days. It is the highest court in the province and is expected to handle civil and criminal cases.

"I think this building is a reflection of the progress that the Coalition and the Iraqis have made," said Capt. Charles Bronowski, Multi-National Corps – Iraq Judge Advocate. "Rule of law is one

of the most important aspects of self governance."

The building took about one year to complete by Iraqi contractors with oversight by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In addition to courtrooms, the facility includes investigation rooms, legal offices, a conference room and training facilities for staff.

"This is a symbol of the establishment of the rule of law and an increase in the judicial capacity," Salmon said. "This is exactly what is required at this stage on the road from where we've been to where we've got to get to."

Security progress allows for Shulla transfer to ISF

By U.S. Army Spc. Dustin Roberts
Multi-National Division – Center PAO

BAGHDAD – As per a recently signed security agreement, Multi-National Division – Baghdad Soldiers and Iraqi Security Forces made another necessary step toward total Iraqi control in securing northwest Baghdad.

In a transfer ceremony, Soldiers from the 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, handed over the keys to Joint Security Station Shulla to the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division March 2 at the Shulla Neighborhood Advisor Council Hall.

Iraqi and Western media were invited to the transfer ceremony and had a chance to walk the streets to see first-hand the security and infrastructure improvements in Shulla.

During the visit, reporters from outlets such as al-Hurra Television, Agency French Press, Reuters, the Associated Press and the British Broadcasting Company, witnessed the transition of Joint Security Station Shulla and had lunch at a newly rebuilt chicken restaurant; destroyed by a vehicle-born explosive device in December 2008.

“The event was a testimony to the astonishing progress we see on a daily basis in northwest Baghdad,” said Lt.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Dustin Roberts

Lt. Col. Philip Smith (left), public affairs officer, Multi-National Division-Baghdad, walks the streets of the Shulla neighborhood of northwest Baghdad during a media walk-through March 2.

Col. John Vermeesch, commander, 1st CAB. “The security situation in Shulla has not been this good in a long time. Because of that, the citizens of Shulla are experiencing a better standard of living and infrastructure improvement that they have not seen in years.”

During the walk the visitors saw kids waving Iraqi flags, busy sidewalks and

flourishing shops.

“They were excited to see how secure the area is; it was very natural and normal,” said Mona Joesif, an Arabic media coordinator for 2nd HBCT. “Women and children were walking around and everything seemed to be okay.”

Joesif also said why it was important for the residents of Shulla to be informed of news in their neighborhood.

“For me, as an Iraqi person, it’s important to know what’s going on with the security agreement between Coalition forces and the Iraqi Government,” she said. “When it’s time for the Americans to leave, it’s important to know if the Iraqi Security Forces will be standing on their feet.”

Vermeesch said the transfer of JSS Shulla to the 2nd Bn., 22nd Bde., 6th IA Div. confirmed that the ISF are not only standing on their feet, but gaining confidence daily while taking the required steps toward permanent success.

“As part as our endeavor to support the ISF and in accordance with the security agreement between our two countries, we continue to turn the security of Iraq back over to the Iraqis,” said Vermeesch.



U.S. Army Photo by Spc. Dustin Roberts

Kim Gamel (left foreground), from Associated Press, interviews Lt. Col. John Vermeesch, commander, 1st Combined Arms Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Multi-National Division—Baghdad

1st BCT transfers authority of Rashid to 2nd BCT

By U.S. Army Sgt. David Hodge
Multi-National Division – Baghdad PAO

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FALCON, Iraq – The 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, said farewell to Multi-National Division – Baghdad leaders, Iraqi Security Forces counterparts and local leaders of the Rashid district during a transfer of authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Falcon March 4.

The 1st BCT transferred authority for their area of operations to Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, during the ceremony.

“Along with local leaders and the ISF we have formed an unbeatable team in Rashid,” said Col. Ted Martin, commander, 1st BCT, during farewell remarks. “I thank you for your friendship, patriotism and support. No longer can the enemy use neighborhoods as battlefields. Each day brings new hope for the citizens of Rashid.”

The 2nd BCT arrived in Iraq nine months ago to provide over watch to the ISF in the Diyala province, located south of the Iraqi capital. The ceremony marked the addition of Rashid to their area of operations for the remainder of their deployment.

Martin and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael I. Bobb, senior enlisted leader, 1st BCT, cased the brigade standard, signifying the completion of the unit’s yearlong deployment.

Col. Pat White, commander, 2nd BCT, 1st Armor Div., applauded the accomplishments of 1st BCT Soldiers and ISF during the previous year. White ensured that his 2nd BCT Soldiers are committed to providing the same partnership and support to the ISF during their time in southern Baghdad.

“Colonel Martin, thank you very much, you and your sergeant major have done a professional job, you have really shown us what needed to happen in Rashid,” White said.

During the ceremony, Martin extended a personal thanks to the 2nd BCT Command Team for their friendship and professionalism.

“The Soldiers of the Raider Brigade know and acknowledge the sacrifices that your Soldiers have already made in Iraq, and we wish you all the best in the days ahead,” Martin said.

In the days leading to the 1st BCT’s TOA, each of the it’s four battalions held separate casing ceremonies to highlight their unit’s accomplishments during



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David Hodge

Col. Ted Martin, commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, renders honors during the playing of the National Anthem at a transfer of authority ceremony March 4 at Forward Operating Base Falcon.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David Hodge

Iraqi Brig. Gen. Faiswal-Tallal, commander of the 5th Brigade, 2nd National Police Division, presents Lt. Col. Matthew Elledge, commander of the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, Multi-National Division – Baghdad, with an Iraqi Medallion.

the deployment and bring an end to their Soldiers’ yearlong deployment.

The 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment; 4th Support Battalion; and 1st Special Troops Battalion cased their battalion colors; while the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. handed its mission to the 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, 2nd Bde., 1st Armored Div.

“Our Soldiers successfully met the challenge to provide the logistics support for the 1st BCT and all other units that used FOB Falcon – living up to our mission to sustain the Raider Brigade,” stated Lt. Col. Darren Werner, commander, 4th Support Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., MND-B.

The 1st BCT originally deployed to Iraq from Fort Hood, Texas in March 2008 under orders for a 15-month deployment, but thanks to gains in the improving security of the Rashid district and across Baghdad, combined with increasing ISF capabilities, the 1st BCT Soldiers will return home three months ahead of schedule.

“Our mission in Iraq is complete and we will [soon] be home with our families,” Martin said. “We will never forget those Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice, and we will never forget the friends that we made in Iraq.”

Troops earn citizenship in Iraq

Multi-National Corps-Iraq PAO

BAGHDAD – During the 13th naturalization ceremony conducted in Iraq, 251 Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines from 65 different countries became American citizens in the rotunda of the Al Faw Palace March 3. The youngest participant was 19 and the oldest was 45.

The servicemembers, from places such as Micronesia, Vietnam and Columbia, were welcomed into the American fold on foreign soil.

“American citizenship means that we each commit ourselves to our community, to our state and to our country,” said Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, commanding general, Multi-National Corps – Iraq. “It means that we participate in improving the quality of our society. It means exercising rights, respecting other’s rights and defending our own rights.”

Although the candidates have already been living in the United States and serving in its military, there is still a great deal to gain by becoming an American.

“We identify ourselves as ‘American,’” Austin said, “but, what does it mean to carry the title ‘American’?”

“It’s a blessing,” said Spc. Rosemarie Narvaez, Company B, 27th Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, and originally from the Philippines. “I get the right to vote which is something I’ve looked forward to doing.”

“I’m glad I call America home,” said Spc. Daley Bornsztejn, Company C, 2nd Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, and Australian by birth. “It’s great to be part of something bigger than yourself.”

The American hopefuls all overcame obstacles before beginning their quest for citizenship. From civil wars to famine to leaving loved ones behind. “It [citizenship] means something different for each person,” Austin said. For these men and women it depends on their individual journeys to this point. It depends on what they endured along the way.”

One new citizen, Spc. Regis Uwizeye from Rwanda, came to America as a refugee from the country’s civil wars, which claimed both his parents. Other countries he tried fleeing to, such as Congo and Kenya, were involved in civil war or civil unrest of their own. He applied for a program to bring refugees to America and was selected. “In America, I can sleep at night and I know the government won’t change overnight because of a military coup,” said Uwizeye, who is part of Troop B, 6th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division.

Q-West officials hold job fair for Iraqis

By U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Kirsten Froelich
3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Public Affairs

COB ADDER, Iraq – In an effort to encourage more Iraqis to take jobs on base, Iraqi and Coalition leaders met with sheiks and civic leaders from the Ninawa province during a job fair held here Feb. 23.

The base already employs many Iraqis, but will increase this number with new jobs being offered to Iraqis in nearby villages.

“The job fair is the first step in what I hope will be a long and continued relationship between COB Q-West leadership, contractors, and the local people around Q-West,” said Lt. Col. Alan Dorow, commander, 181st Brigade Support Battalion, and Q-West Mayor. “This area is a farming community and has been hit very hard by the drought for the past three to four years. The lack of rain has created a huge need for jobs to support local families. We won’t be able to help everyone of course, but every little bit helps, and employment opportunities foster the great working relationships and security for this area.”

Sheiks and Iraqi civic leaders at the job fair were asked to provide a list of individuals who would be willing to work on the logistics base along with basic contact information and skill summaries for the prospective contractors. Lt. Col. Kenneth Garrison, commander, 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, and base defense operations cell commander said the key to the success of the initiative is to find the right balance among all the competing interests in the local area.

“This requires an understanding of the local demographics, as well as ‘buy-in’ and cooperation among the local leaders,” said Garrison. “This has to be an Iraqi solution.”

Dorow said that companies that operate on Q-West will go down the lists and fill positions as they come available. Job vacancies will be filled gradually over the next few months until all positions are filled.

Electronic Counter-Measure fielding begins at Besmaya

By U.S. Army Maj. Adrian Henegan
MNSTC-I JHAATT

BESMAYA COMBAT TRAINING CENTER, Iraq - Iraqi Army Field Engineer Regiments began receipt and training with the Symphony electronic counter-measure system in Jan. 2009. Produced by U.S. defense contractor Lockheed-Martin, the Symphony Improvised Explosive Device jammer is a vehicle-mounted, programmable, radio-frequency IED-defeat system that emits radio interference to prevent remote triggering of roadside bombs.

The Besmaya Combat Training Center partnered with Lockheed-Martin to install Symphony systems in 22 Iraqi Up-Armored Humvees and 11 Badger Light Armored Vehicles. These vehicles were then staged for issue to Iraqi divisional engineering units.

Upon arrival at Besmaya, designated unit personnel receive vehicle orientation and Symphony operator’s training prior to returning to their home station. Task-organized with trained engineer and bomb disposal Soldiers, Iraqi Army divisions now have the capability to conduct route clearance patrols, actions-on-contact with an IED, and battle drill ‘reduction’ of the IED to make the area safe and exploit for evidence.

Symphony-equipped route clearance patrols are now employed throughout Iraq to protect the Iraqi people and provide Iraqi Army mobility through deadly IED threats. This represents a significant increase in capability for the Iraqi Army and, along with U.S. forces, make it one of only two militaries in the world capable of conducting modern route clearance operations.

Brig. Gen. Steven Salazar, commander of Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq’s Joint Headquarters Army Advisory Training Team, said, “This fielding represents a rapid development of a critical counter-insurgency warfighting capability for Iraq. This effort is a result of a dedicated partnership between the Iraqi military and Coalition forces, with the full support of the Government of Iraq.”

Equipment Operator Class Graduates, Develops Skills for Developing Iraq

Story by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell
Multi-National Division Baghdad

BAGHDAD - There was a large celebration March 5 at the Adl Sports Center in Kadamiyah, where about 150 Iraqi students graduated from a heavy equipment operator course that began Dec. 4, 2008.

These students are the first to graduate from the heavy equipment operator course, said the contracting officer representative for the project, 1st Lt. Justin Casey, assigned to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

"They learned to operate dump trucks, street sweepers, bulldozers and sewage trucks," said Casey.

The project provides 18 vehicles per 48 Iraqi students then turns the vehicles over to the beladiya which is like a neighborhood, continued Casey, whose job involves ensuring that the contracts given to the Iraqis are fulfilled.

The U.S. military supports Iraqi contractors to provide skills through classes to unemployed Iraqis. Casey said he travels to the training sites to make sure the training is in line with the contracts.

There are six training locations throughout Baghdad with two phases of

the training: theoretical and practical. The first phase is classroom instruction, where students learn about basic operations and maintenance of the vehicles. The second phase consists of hands-on training with driving and operating the machinery, said Casey.

"We had students that started the class and didn't even know how to drive," said Ali Kurji Hassan, an instructor for the course and mechanical engineer from Baghdad. "Now they can drive and maintain the vehicles. They are very excited!"

Most of the students were previously unemployed but were eager to work.

"It's a big thing for students that have never had an education," said Hassan.

Not only were the students receiving an education, but they were also paid a stipend for attending classes. The stipend was \$10 a day, up to \$300 a month if they attended class every day, but the rewards were more than monetary.

"In the long-term it's going to benefit the community," said Casey. "Here they were given a training opportunity so they are an asset to the people of Iraq."

The partnership between the coalition force and Iraq has grown tremendously and the communities are reaping the rewards of these accomplishments.



Photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

Iraqi students celebrate before a graduation for a heavy equipment operator's course funded by Coalition forces March 5 at the Adl Sports Center in Kadamiyah.

"We are enthusiastic to have this partnership with the U.S.," said Maj. Hadi Salih, the supervisor of training in Adl. "These classes provide the students with skills to be more useful to the community. The training was smooth and they were content to be doing it, so it didn't feel like hard work."

The students will reap the rewards of the training in the future, but at the graduation everyone was celebrating.

"The students are very excited, they're in there dancing," said Casey. "They're excited to accomplish something."



Photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

An Iraqi student dances with an Iraqi flag before a graduation for a heavy equipment operator's course funded by Coalition forces March 5 at the Adl Sports Center in Kadamiyah.



Photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell

Iraqi girls sing the Iraqi national anthem for a graduation ceremony while Soldiers from the Special Troops Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, secure the area March 5 at the Adl Sports Center in Kadamiyah.

Inspector General Conference highlights accomplishments

By USAF Maj. Kimberly Layne
MNSTC-I PAO

BAGHDAD – Interior Minister Jawad al Bolani addressed a large group at the 3rd Annual Inspector General Conference March 5, telling them he was proud of the brave inspectors general in the Ministry of Interior who, through their efforts, have improved security for all Iraqis and continue to work to eliminate corruption.

“It is our duty to serve not just the Constitution, but the community and all its organizations. We need to be close to the Iraqi people and their concerns and work to defeat administrative and financial corruption,” said Bolani. He praised the inspectors general for their commitment and “spirit of responsibility to the ministry and the nation.” Bolani noted the Ministry’s great progress in reducing corruption in the past three years, while building trust with the citizenry.

Inspector General Akeel Saeed welcomed the more than 400 attendees to the event. Akeel, highlighting the direct connection between terrorism and corruption, titled the conference “Defeating Corruption Will Elevate

Security and Stability.”

Maj. Gen. James M. Milano, deputy commanding general of Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq’s Director of Interior Affairs, also addressed the inspectors general. “You are the eyes, ears and voice of the Minister. You hold in your hand the future of Iraq. Integrity and transparency is the key,” said Milano. He noted the significant advances made in the professionalization of the IG directorate during 2008, evidenced by the new vetting process for IG personnel, the hiring of qualified staffers with special skills, and improved training programs available to all IG personnel.

Another milestone for the Inspector General’s office in 2008 was the special emphasis placed on human rights. Milano noted that nearly 100 inspections of Iraqi detention centers were completed in 2008. “We need to acknowledge and recognize the police commanders who do a good job, and identify and punish those who don’t,” said Milano.

Other improvements made in 2008 included new reporting methods

and information tracking and more advanced computer technologies and systems for communicating with the provinces.

“We are very excited about the prospects for the Ministry of Interior IG in 2009 and are proud of the accomplishments we have achieved together in 2008,” Milano added. “The Coalition is proud to be partnered with such a professional and dedicated institution.

Dr. Adel Mohsin, Inspector General of the Ministry of Health, said the IG system is the backbone for eliminating corruption. “Those who do not report corruption are betraying their responsibility in front of God,” said Mohsin.

He said the Ministry of Interior had made great progress since 2005 in wiping out corruption and “that is one reason why we see security improvements today.” Ambassador Joseph Stafford from the U.S. Embassy - Iraq added, “The American government also stands ready to help the Iraqi government stop corruption.”

MNSTC-I’s efforts in supporting its Government of Iraq ministerial partners represents a vital step towards ensuring Iraq’s self-sufficiency for the future.



Photo by U.S.A.F. Maj. Kimberly Layne

Iraqi Interior Minister Jawad al Bolani speaks at the 3rd Annual Inspector General Conference here March 5. He praised the MoI inspectors general for fighting corruption, thus helping improve security and build trust with the community over the last three years.

Iraqi Mi-17 Multirole Helicopter performs night training mission

By USAF Capt. Tommy Avilucea
MNSTC-I PAO

TAJI – Iraqi Mi-17 multi-role helicopter performed a night vision navigation passenger movement mission Mar. 06. The Iraqis currently have 14 Mi-17s, operations include passenger and cargo movement, battlefield mobility, and medical evacuation. The American advisors have trained five squadrons of 55 pilots and 6 gunners. An Iraqi crew of five members performed their first ever mission outside the wire without any American advisors. The Iraqi led off the mission as the lead aircraft on a 3 hour transport mission. Stops were made at Balad Air Base, Baghdad International Air Port, and Kirkuk Air Base. The Iraqis also performed medevac training session on Mar. 07.

U.S. Air Force, Master Sergeant Roman River, Gunner stated, "It's really exciting to see all Iraqi crew flying outside the wire for the first time without American advisors."

During flight debrief U.S Air Force Captain, Jason Hawk congratulated the crew on the successful flight outside the wire. He told the crew, "The mission went all and you met all your objectives."

Iraqi Pilot, LTC Faris, 4th Squadron, Squadron Commander Assistant remarked, "It is a very very very good feeling to be the first pilot in the Iraqi

Air Force to be qualified for night vision navigation. It took many hours of training and I have gained lots of experience for myself and the Iraqi Air Force." Captain Faris enthusiastically said, "I am proud of the training the pilots, gunners, electrical and avionics crews received from the Americans. This is a big step for me, the Iraqi Air Force, and my country; we can now do this mission on our own."

Mr. Lirato Zeki, Advisor Communications and Navigations proudly announced, "Captain Faris is the only Iraqi pilot qualified for night vision, and he is the first in the history of the Iraqi Air Force that can train other Iraqi in night vision navigation."

Medical evacuation exercise began with configuring aircraft transport of patients, U.S Army SSgt. 1st Class, Robbi Smith stated, "We teach aero-medical techniques, loading and unloading procedures, litter training and safety inside and outside the aircraft. Eleven students have received the Basic Medical training, through a 28 day course."

"American training is very good and has helped me a lot. I like training with Americans, I have taken many courses and they have helped with skills to move patients from anywhere in Iraqi. I can now better serve my country," said Iraqi Air Force Lt. Amur, Flight Medic.



U.S. Air Force Capt, Tommy Avilucea

Iraqi Air Force Lt. Amur, Flight Medic checks on patients as they prepare for transport,



U.S. Air Force Capt, Tommy Avilucea

An Mi-17 crew prepares for the first-ever all-Iraqi night vision navigation mission outside the wire

ISF, MND-B Soldiers discover IED in Mansour

BAGHDAD –Iraqi Security Forces and Multi-National Division Baghdad Soldiers discovered an improvised explosive device in northwest Baghdad Feb. 21.

Iraqi Army soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 54th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division reported to their partners with 4th Battalion, 42nd Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division that they have discovered an IED in the Mansour district. MND-B Soldiers immediately responded to help cordon off the area and ensure there were no secondary devices.

An Iraqi Army explosive ordinance disposal team responded to the site and disarmed the device.

"The discovery and safe disposal of these devices by the ISF and Coalition forces proves the partnership is strong and capable between us," said Maj. Koné Faulkner, spokesman for the 2nd HBCT, 1st Inf. Div. "Along with our ISF counterparts, we will continue to work to secure the people of northwest Baghdad and improve the quality of life for its citizens."

ISF, MND-B Soldiers distribute supplies to Karada schools

BAGHDAD – Iraqi Security Forces and their U.S. partners distributed a variety of clothes and school supplies to students in two schools, Feb. 25 in the al Karradah district of eastern Baghdad.

More than 400 children gathered outside the Qairwan Elementary School's courtyard to receive their supplies. National Police officers from

the 1st National Police Brigade, 1st NP Division and Multi-National Division—Baghdad Soldiers assigned to the National Police Transition Team, handed students backpacks, notebooks, pencil sets and crayons. Most of the supplies were donated by several organizations from the U.S., as well as family members of deployed troops.

As Coalition forces continue enabling their ISF counterparts, Iraqi citizens are seen relying more and more on the ISF to improve their day to day life.

"With the ISF in the lead, [Iraqi citizens] are now able to address their problems with NP officers because they realize the NP play a role in their community," said Capt. Marcus Long, assigned to the NPTT. "Events like this allow the people to see and talk to them."

While on a foot patrol to the Qairwan Elementary School, an Iraqi man approached the combined forces after his son suffered a large cut on the side of his head. An NP officer provided first aid for the boy and gave him a toy as a reward for his courage.

Long said the visit allowed NP officers to get a first-hand look at the needs of the school. Long credited the leaders of the 1st Bde., 1st NP Div., for planning and executing the school supply distribution in the two Karada-area schools.

"This lets [National Policemen] see the classrooms, the lack of playground equipment, the cafeteria and the bathrooms. This allows them to see all the school's concerns."

The senior NP officer said this event was fulfilling because of the joy shown by the children.

"We love to see the happiness in the children's eyes," said Iraqi Col. Taria, the operations chief for the 1st NP Div. "This is one of the most important things we do, they want to see us and talk to us. It's a big thing."

Taria will continue to work on the laundry list of requests made by school officials at both the Shana and Shorwq Kindergarten and the Qairwan Elementary School in order to enhance the education of the children.

"The schools have asked us for more swings, slides and toys," he said. "We are going to try to help them in the near future."

The headmaster at the Shana and Shorwq Kindergarten school expressed her gratitude to both the U.S. troops and Iraqi NP officers for the supplies. She credits the recent security gains in the area as a major factor in allowing this type of operation.

"We are very happy because the Iraqi Government, National Police and the American Army now have the time to take care of the children," she said. "This is a very poor area, and they need an aid operation such as this one."

Military Police Officer Basic Course graduation at An Numaniyah

AN NUMANIYAH, Iraq - The Iraqi Military Police Academy at An Numaniyah Military Training Base continues to professionalize the Iraqi Officer Corps. Eight Military Police officers from six different Iraqi Army divisions graduated from the Military Police Officers Basic Course here Feb. 25.

The 8-week curriculum included such diverse topics as Levels of Force, Civil Disturbance, Personal Security Detail (planning & executing), Traffic Control Point/Entry Control Point management, platoon and company-level Military Operations in Urban Terrain, Force Protection/Security in Urban Areas, and Enemy Prisoner-of-War/Civilian Internee internment and resettlement operations.

The training also included situational training exercises requiring students to overcome challenging, realistic circumstances likely to be encountered in both urban and rural settings while drawing upon experience from classroom instruction and practical exercises. The course is designed and mentored by personnel from Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's Joint Headquarters Army Advisory Training

Team (formerly Coalition Army Advisory Training Team).

The Iraqi MP officers will return to their home units and apply the newly-learned techniques and skills to better their units as they continue their efforts to maintain security and stability in Iraq. MNSTC-I's crucial assistance in the training of Iraqi Security Forces represents a vital step towards ensuring Iraq's self-sufficiency during the critical transition from coalition to Iraqi-led operations.

Coalition Forces Relinquish Responsibility for Sons of Iraq

MOSUL, Iraq – Coalition forces conducted a Transfer of Authority ceremony with key leaders of the Iraqi army relinquishing the Sons of Iraq contracts to the government of Iraq on March 2 at Forward Operating Base Q-West.

The transfer will give Iraq better control over its security resources and is yet another step forward in the progressive mission to let Iraqi's take the lead in their country.

In attendance were representatives from the Sons of Iraq, 5th Brigade, 2nd Iraq Army Div., as well as Brig. Gen. Abbas, the commanding general of the 2nd IA Div., Brig. Gen. Khadir, the commanding general of 7th Bde., 2nd Iraqi Army Division, Maj. Gen. Robert L. Caslen, Jr. and Brig. Gen. Robert B. Brown, the commanding and deputy (support) commanding generals, Col. Gary Volesky, the 3rd Heavy Bde. Combat Team, 1st Cav. Div. commanding officer and Lt. Col. Michael J. Fadden, the commanding officer of 1st Bn., 12th Cav. Reg., Greywolf Bde.

The Sons of Iraq stood in the ceremonial formation while Caslen and Khadir signed the contract.

The ceremony was followed by a key leader lunch and a combined payday rehearsal meeting to ensure that the pay requirements of the Sons of Iraq will be met without problems this coming payday.

Mass Casualty exercise conducted in Kirkuk

KIRKUK, Iraq - A Mass Casualty exercise was conducted at the K-1 Iraqi Army Base here Feb. 24. The joint training exercise represented the culmination of several weeks of training and planning by the medical staff and workers at the K-1 Location Command Clinic, Soldiers from Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq's Logistics Military Advisory Team (part of MNSTC-I's Joint Headquarters Army Advisory Training Team), a medical 'Tiger Team' from the 15th Brigade Support Battalion, along with the K-1 Fire Department and Base Defense Unit.

The exercise started with a simulated mortar attack on both the K-1 LC dining facility and a barracks building. Fifteen simulated casualties were staged with injuries ranging from minor burns, contusions and smoke inhalation to life-threatening internal injuries, and sucking chest wounds.

Medics from the K-1 Clinic arrived with firemen within one minute of the 'attack'. The attack was simulated with a coordinated deployment of numerous smoke grenades. Within three minutes, the full contingent of more than 20 medics arrived with eight ambulances and evacuated all fifteen casualties out of the dining facility and barracks, triaging the patients five minutes later. Medics were required to assess the patient's injuries, simulated with moulage kits complete with air-pumps for replicating chest wounds and spurting 'blood' for amputations and arterial bleeding.

As they were triaged, casualties were routed to eight waiting ambulances for transport to either the K-1 Clinic or the Casualty Transfer

Point for simulated onward movement and treatment at Kirkuk General Hospital in the city.

Once at the K-1 Clinic, casualties received more definitive treatment and diagnosis of their injuries. Burns were dressed, fractures splinted, and wounds cleaned and bandaged. All casualties were portrayed by the Iraqi Combat Lifesaver class undergoing training at the Clinic over the previous 12 days. The entire exercise was overseen by Clinic Commander, Iraqi Lt. Col (Dr.) Jasem and Executive Officer Capt. (Dr.) Saad.

Iraqi Brig. Gen. Younis, Commanding General, K-1 Location Command, observed all aspects of the MASCAL Exercise from the initial attack through final treatment of casualties. This was the second MASCAL exercise during Younis' tenure and he noted he observed great improvements since the previous event.

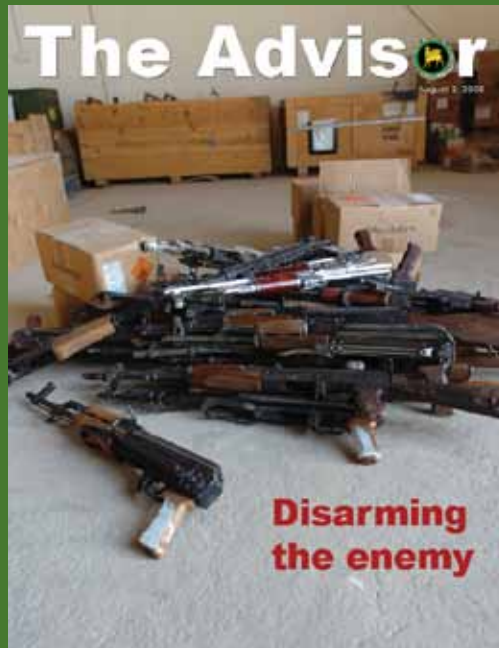
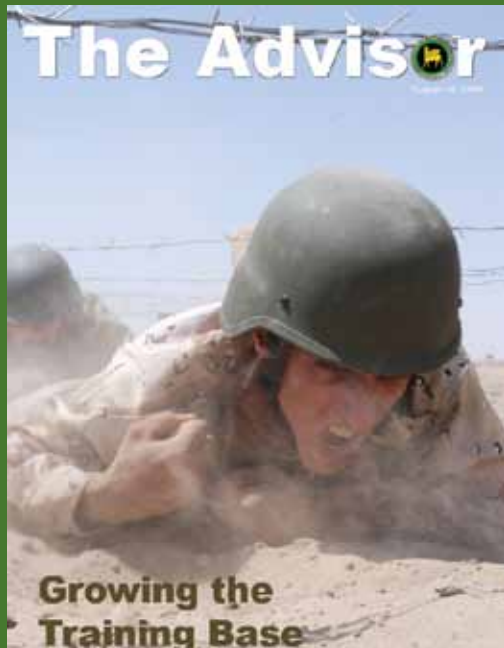
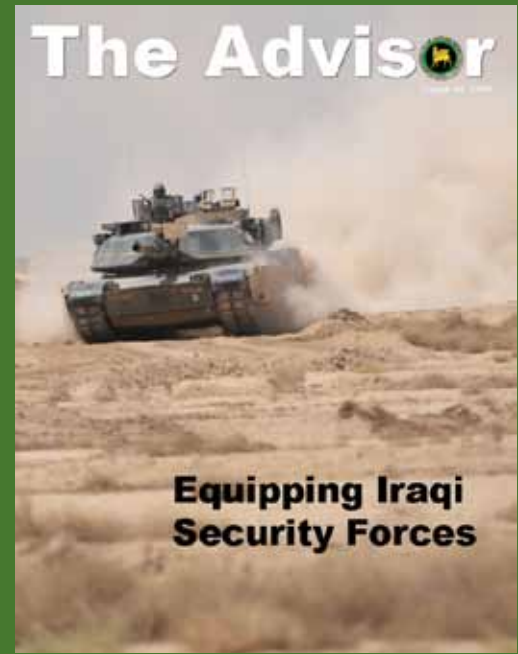
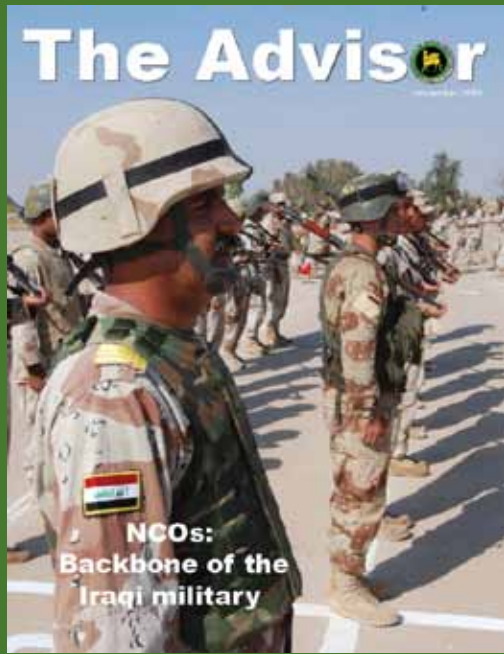
Coalition detainee population falls to 13,832

BAGHDAD — Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I) and the Government of Iraq (GOI) crossed another milestone Feb. 27 when the total population of detainees in Coalition custody dropped below 14,000. As of today, the total population is 13,832.

Last month, Task Force 134 Detainee Operations began releasing an average 50 detainees a day in accordance with the Security Agreement. The signed agreement between the U.S. and the GOI requires all detainees to be released in a safe and orderly manner or transferred to Iraqi custody pursuant to a judicial order.

Those released in February represented the first group of detainee case files that were reviewed by Iraqi authorities under the Security Agreement.

DID YOU MISS AN ISSUE OF THE ADVISOR?



**FIND BACK ISSUES ONLINE NOW AT
WWW.MNSTCI.IRAQ.CENTCOM.MIL**